

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 07751 260617Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EPA-04 CEQ-01 FEA-01 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8098

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FOR OES/ENP/EN

DEPT PASS EPA AND CEQ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA

SUBJECT: GOJ ENVIRONMENTAL WHITE PAPER

1. ON MAY 24, GOJ ISSUED WHITE PAPER ON ENVIRONMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1976 (ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE OF ENVIRONEMNTAL POLLUTION.)
2. REPORT, REVIEWING GOJ ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONEMNT AGENCY (EA) IN 9171, POINTED OUT THAT GENERALLY GOJ'S EFFORTS FOR IMPROVING ENVIRONMENT HAVE BORNE FRUIT ALTHOUGH PROBLEMS REMAIN UNSOLVED IN CERTAIN AREAS SUCH AS NITROGEN OXIDES, ORGANIC WATER POLLUTANTS, AND NOISE AND VIBRATION.
3. SPECIAL EMPHASIS IN REPORT PLACED ON COST AND TECHNOLOGY FOR POLLUTION CONTROL. AN ENTIRE CHAPTER IS DEVLOTED TO DISCUSSION OF THIS THEME. REPORT NOTED THAT CORPORATE INVESTMENT IN POLLUTION CONTROL PROJECTS HAS NOT EXERTED NOTICEABLE ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE MACRO-ECONOMY; POLLUTION

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 07751 260617Z

CONTROL EXPENDITURE BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY, WHICH AMOUNTED TO 5,300 BILLION YEN OVER TEN-YEAR PERIOD FROM 1965-1975, HAS BOOSTED GNP BY 0.9 PER CENT, CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY 1.2 PERCENT, AND WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX BY 1.7 PER CENT. IN FACT, CORPORATE INVESTMENT IN POLLUTION CONTROL HAS MADE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AS SEEN IN FACT THAT EMISSIONS OF SULFUR OXIDES ARE NOW

ABOUT 50 PER CENT LESS THAN IN CASE NO INVESTMENT WAS
MADE IN REGULATING THIS PARTICULAR AIR POLLUTANT.

4. REPORT, HOWEVER, PREDICTED DIFFICULTIES FOR BOTH
GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN DEVELOPING THEIR
POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAMS DUE TO STABILIZATION OF
ECONOMY (THIS TERM ACTUALLY MEANS BUSINESS STAGNATION).
TO MEET THIS SITUATION, REPORT CALLED FOR BASING POLLUTION
CONTROL PROGRAMS ON COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSES, PROMOTION
OF POLLUTION CONTROL TECHNOLOGY WITH INCREASED GOVERNMENT
SUPPORT AND ACCOMPANIED BY REGULAR TECHNOLOGICAL EVALUATION,
APPROPRIATE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS,
AND EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

5. COMMENT: TONE OF OPTIMISM PERVADES ENVIRONMENTAL
WHITE PAPER FOR FISCAL YEAR 1976 IN DESCRIBING STATE OF
THE ENVIRONMENT, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF AIR AND WATER
POLLUTION. ONE IS PUZZLED BY LACK OF ANY REFERENCE
TO MINAMATE DISEASE, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH AGAIN ATTRACTED
PUBLIC ATTENTION RECENTLY WHEN EA DIRECTOR-GENERAL
ISHIHARA VISITED THE AFFECTED AREA AND WAS RECEIVED
RATHER COOLLY BY YOUNG PATIENTS THERE. EA'S OPTIMISM
APPEARS BASED ON RECENT OECD FINDING THAT GOJ WAS MAKING
CONSIDERABLE GAINS IN ITS BATTLE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL
POLLUTION.

6. ENGLISH SUMMARY OF WHITE PAPER WILL BE AVAILABLE
SHORTLY FROM EA. WILL SEND COPIES WHEN READY.
SHOESMITH
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PAGE 03 TOKYO 07751 260617Z

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Message Attributes

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